PATENT

New Docket No: NC05001USU

Old Docket No.: 0557-004

Serial No.: 10/602,787

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-17 have been

allowed. A substitute Figure 9 is being submitted herewith to overcome the objections of

the Examiner as set forth above. Examiner's reminder regarding the interplay of

inventorship, ownership, and the scope of prior art is noted, but it is believed that any

relevant subject matter and the claimed invention were owned or subject to an obligation of

assignment to Assignee at the time the claimed invention was made.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the

present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such

effect is earnestly solicited. If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent

Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is

respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve

these matters and avoid the issuance of another Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings filed on June 24, 2003 as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(u)(1), which states that "different views must be numbered in consecutive Arabic numerals . . .". The Examiner specifically objects to Figure 9, which depicts three separate views of Applicant's invention. The Examiner states that "Each of said views must be identified separately. The labels "Fig. 9a", "Fig. 9b" and "Fig. 9c" would be acceptable." The Examiner further notes that if said labeling is used then the drawing description section of the specification does not need to be amended.

Submitted herewith is a substitute Figure 9. Figure 9 has been amended to more specifically label the three views as "Fig. 9a", "Fig. 9b" and "Fig. 9c" as requested by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully requests that this substitute drawing be entered.